

January 26, 2007

Contact: Robin Winchell (202) 225-4031

**WASHINGTON, DC-** U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon announced today that the leadership of the House Energy and Commerce Committee has chosen him to serve as vice chair of the committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

**"The American people deserve to know how their money is being spent and whether their government is operating efficiently and effectively," said Rep. Melancon. "The Constitution mandates that Congress conduct meaningful oversight of the federal government, yet there have been almost no oversight hearings held or subpoenas issued in the past six years. It's time for that to change. As vice chair of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, I look forward to looking into the activities of agencies within our jurisdiction that warrant review."**

The Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations has jurisdiction over and responsibility for the oversight of agencies, departments, and programs within the jurisdiction of the full Energy and Commerce Committee, and for conducting investigations within such jurisdiction. The Energy and Commerce Committee has broad jurisdiction over health, energy, environment, telecommunications, and commerce issues and legislation. Rep. Melancon also serves on Energy & Commerce's Consumer, Trade and Consumer Protection Subcommittee and Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee.

Rep. Melancon also announced today that he will again serve on the House Committee on Science and Technology. The Congressman was granted his request to continue to serve on the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, which handles issues related to civilian aviation and U.S. space activity. These include NASA, commercial space activities within the Department of Transportation and the Department of Commerce, and the aviation R&D activities of the FAA. Recently the Subcommittee has dealt with the next generation of air traffic control, NASA aeronautics programs and NASA's Vision for Space Exploration.

**"Issues related to NASA are very important to me and many of the people I represent in Congress because NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility provides so many good, high-tech jobs for south Louisianians"** Rep. Melancon said. **"In July of last year I**

**brought members of the Science Committee to Michoud for a field briefing, and I will continue to advocate for this valuable facility as a member of the Space and Aeronautics subcommittee during the 110**

**th**

**Congress.**

**"**

**###**

Contact: Robin Winchell (202) 225-4031